

Congress, in the last Great Depression, they had the guts to actually double that tax. Disaster was predicted on Wall Street. Guess what? The economy only went up from there, and tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people were put to work building a new America, an infrastructure that needs rebuilding today.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, some days we do not know how to pray. What are the greatest needs of the Nation? Who needs Your attention? To whom should we individually offer our slippery dollar?

You alone know our personal needs. You see the depths I dare not confess to another. My most severe wounds are buried in my own fear. The whole truth is difficult for us to face, humanly, so we will live another day on the margins.

Lord, help Congress to do what it is able to do. Anything more would be fictitious. You alone know us through and through. So, by placing all our trust in You, we can now work as hard as we can and rest in peace.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COBLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### CONGRATULATING EMBRY RIDDLE UNIVERSITY

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, Embry Riddle University held their annual symposium dedicated to issues in homeland security on its Prescott, Arizona, campus. Unfortunately, the House held votes that day and I could not attend, but I heard that it was a fantastic event.

This year's theme was "Challenges for Homeland Security in the 21st Century," and panelists came from the FBI, the CIA, and TSA, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and from the world of academia, among other places. Topics covered a wide range of issues, such as cybersecurity, public-private partnerships, and coordination between Federal, State, and local law enforcement.

I congratulate the faculty and administration of the Embry Riddle Prescott campus for putting together the event and working to develop a new generation of homeland security professionals.

#### FIREFIGHTERS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I rise today to commend some of our country's finest heroes—our firefighters. These caring individuals at our local fire departments in the Florida Keys and Miami-Dade are first-rate examples of the selflessness and commitment required to be a firefighter. Every day, these brave folks work to better protect and care for our communities. Their outstanding work allows all of us to live with a greater peace of mind for the safety of our families.

The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue motto is: "Always Ready, Proud to Serve." Recently, they were named Florida's 2009 EMS Provider of the Year. My heartfelt congratulations go out to each of these remarkable heroes who made this distinction possible.

A bit further south in my district, in the Florida Keys, the Monroe County

firefighters just opened up their new facility in Big Pine Key. This newly renovated fire station will help them better serve the needs of our community.

I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of all of our firefighters. Their professional and humanitarian services are essential to the public health, safety, and well-being of all south Florida. Congratulations to all.

#### PUTTING PATIENTS' NEEDS FIRST

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. I'm here today to applaud this House for fighting for working Americans by last weekend passing comprehensive welfare reform. I want to recognize this legislation takes a huge step forward in addressing the issue of paying for value in our health care system.

The current payment system rewards volume and quantity of care rather than quality of care. We spend hundreds of billions of dollars every year on unnecessary tests and procedures that do not improve a patient's health. We need to change the incentive system. We need doctors and hospitals to work together to coordinate care, putting the patients' needs first.

In my district of southern Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic has created such a culture where doctors coordinate and look for the best quality results. There are other institutions around the country who also provide high-quality, efficient care at low costs. These organizations all do it differently, but the one thing they have in common is a culture of patient-centered care.

This culture needs to be replicated in every hospital across the country, and the way we get there is by changing the incentive system. I'm very proud that the provisions in this bill will address this very issue. If we're to reform any part of health care this year, this is the key.

#### PROGRESSIVE BUT NOT PARTISAN?

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, much has been spoken and written about the White House snub of Fox News. We have heard little, however, about MSNBC. Anita Dunn, the departing White House Communications Director, was quoted in a recent New York Times article claiming that Rachel Maddow and Keith Olbermann, MSNBC hosts, are "progressive but not partisan." Well, they surely fooled me.

Some may agree with Ms. Dunn by concluding that these two are not merely partisan, but rather fiercely partisan, and Ms. Dunn insults our intelligence by claiming otherwise.